

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 121

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the Winlow Place Civic Club and the Harris County Historical Commission in paying tribute to Obedience Smith, who is being memorialized with a Texas Historical Marker that is being dedicated September 10, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Obedience was born January 21, 1771; she was the daughter of Elias Fort, a leading deacon of Particular Baptist churches in North Carolina and later in Tennessee; she married Major David Smith, a Revolutionary War patriot, Indian fighter, and lumber mill owner in the Natchez and Cumberland Districts, and they had 11 children, only four of whom survived her; and

WHEREAS, Obedience Smith was a pioneer of three American frontiers, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Texas; after her husband died, she followed her son, Colonel Benjamin Fort Smith, to Texas, where he was serving as an adjutant to General Sam Houston; she arrived just weeks before the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836; and

WHEREAS, She received a land grant from the Republic of Texas in 1838 for thousands of acres in what is now the City of Houston, and today the titles of many valuable downtown properties still cite the Obedience Smith Survey; and

WHEREAS, She was a founder of the First Baptist Church of Houston in 1841, and her family members and descendants included numerous prominent citizens and elected officials who served as the namesakes for several Houston streets and three Texas counties; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend best wishes to the Harris County Historical Commission and the Winlow Place Civic Club for a memorable dedication of the historical marker honoring Obedience Smith; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared to commemorate this special occasion.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on June 28, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate